26th August 1926]

Village Panchayats.

Alleged collection of illegal taxes by the President of Therkupatti Village Panchayat.

*2332 Q.—Mr. Chavadi K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether any steps have been taken to refund the illegal taxes collected by the President of the Village Panchayat in Therkupatti village, Tinnevelly taluk;

(b) what was the total amount ordered to be refunded to the parties; and

(c) what steps were taken to relieve the people from such unjust and unsympathetic assessment of taxation?

A.—(a) The hon. Member is apparently referring to the taxes levied from dealers in sheep and goats referred to in clause (e) of the answer given to question No. 1660 on 19th March 1926. The refund of these taxes is engaging the attention of the Registrar-General of Panchayats.

(b) The amount, the refund of which is under consideration, is Rs. 42-7-0.

(c) The attention of the Registrar-General has been invited to the matter and he has been asked to take such action as he considers necessary.

Mr. Chavadi K. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI:—"With reference to the answer to clauses (b) and (c) may I know whether any order has been communicated to the President of Therkupatti Village Panchayat?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The matter is engaging the attention of the Inspector of Local Bodies."

Irrigation.

Proposal for cutting a channel to irrigate silted land in Murungapet.

*2333 Q.—Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government intend cutting a high level channel so as to irrigate the silted up land in Murungapet and Muttarasanallur area; and

(b) whether they have invited the opinion of the villagers regarding the feasibility and usefulness of the scheme?

A.—A scheme of this nature in the Tanjore district has just been sanctioned, and will be carried out at Government cost, though the ryots are prepared to contribute if necessary. The result of this experiment will be awaited before dealing with the further areas mentioned in the question, and the views of the cultivators affected will be ascertained before any action is taken.

Mr R. G. Stoney's report on the working of the Kattalai Right Bank Canal.

*2334 Q.—Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to place on the table Mr. R. G. Stoney's report on the working of the Kattalai Right Bank Canal and the proposed Bed Regulator?